

MINUTES OF THE HOWARD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD – January 8, 2009 6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Dave Grabowski, Chairperson; Gary Rosenbaum, Vice-Chair; Linda Dombrowski; Tammy CitaraManis; Paul Yelder

Members Absent: None

DPZ Staff Present: Marsha McLaughlin; Kimberley Flowers, Jeannine Matthews, William Mackey, Bob Lalush, Randy Clay, Mark DeLuca

PUBLIC MEETING

Chairman Grabowski opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. and introduced Petitioner and Councilwoman Mary Kay Sigaty. The Councilwoman presented a copy of the original adopted amendment from 1965 as a gift to the Planning Board. The amendment had 9 pages of text. Greg Hamm, Regional Vice President, Director of Development, General Growth Properties (GGP) was introduced. Mr. Hamm thanked the citizens and the Planning Board and introduced GGP's entire development team as well as Mr. Anirban Basu one of the Mid-Atlantic region's most recognizable economists, and Chairman and CEO of Sage Policy Group, Inc. Mr. Basu provided statistical detail and analysis related to a variety of key issues stemming from the proposed redevelopment of downtown Columbia. This report gave the necessary support to key community decision makers by offering both benefit and cost considerations of the area's reconfiguration.

The GGP team presented a step-by-step oral presentation of their response to the Department of Planning and Zoning's (DPZ) staff recommendations to the General Plan/Zoning Regulation Amendment (ZRA 113). A matrix was distributed that detailed their response to each area of the Plan. It addressed 4 themes which included: 1) Making a Special Place; 2) Moving and Connecting People (transit); 3) Balancing and Phasing Growth; 4) Involving Everyone.

A brief history of changes that began in the late 80's was explained. The focus was on a new town, new urbanism, smart growth; predictable street patterns, creative and intelligent approaches. Howard County took an active role in getting involved to get plans under way. More than 100 meetings encompassed and four principals were created to guide Columbia for the next 40 years: Connectivity, Restoration, Amenities, and Vision.

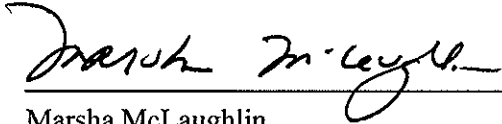
GGP representatives presented their plans for each section of downtown Columbia and explained their ideas and visions. Mr. Hamm commented that although more works need to be done, they are very excited about the project and they Todd Brown, Linowes & Blocher, discussed how to approach the Preliminary Development Plan, the Comprehensive Development Plan and Final Development Plan. Board members posed several questions to the GGP team regarding transportation,

The Board requested that GGP return with the revised ZRA responses to their concerns and recommendations. They further in and present it at the January 22nd meeting.

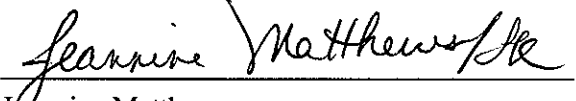
Mr. Rosenbaum asked several questions regarding transportation and the existence of a transit hub. Mr. Brown stated that the plan calls for a transit hub as well as coordination with the Howard County transit system.

Ms. CitaraManis questioned the process for the proposed plan, asking if a General Plan Amendment is the correct mechanism to use. Mr. Brown stated that they tried to consolidate the FDP, which is more comprehensive.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE PLANNING BOARD ADJOURNED AT 11:00 P.M.



Marsha McLaughlin
Executive Secretary



Jeannine Matthews
Recording Secretary